Klu Klux Klan - 1932

Klan's Conservative Remnant Gags At Fight On Miller Through Feagin

Advertiser 1-8-32

By ATTICUS MULLIN

BIRMINGHAM, Jan. 7.—(Special)—Investigation here discloses that the corpse of the Ku Klux Klan of Alabama is almost ready for burial. There are now less than 500 paying members of this once powerful order in Alabama as against many thousands who paid in the hey-dey of the glory.

Hamp Draper is the "big wig" of the klan in Alabama according to what can be learned here. Hamp, so they say, is the Imperial Representative. They say here that Bert Thomas is his assistant, or deputy. They say there is no grand dragon, a job that was once graced by Jim Esdale. They say the "boys" could not be rallied on a successor to Jim and that Hiram Evans, Imperial Wizard, thought so well of Hamp Draper, the head of the convict department during the Graves's administration, that Hamp is the Imperial Representative.

The writer made some investigations about the Klan among old klan members in an effort to find out whether or not the representative klansmen of former days thought the order could be revived by an attack on the Miller Democratic administration such as has recently been launched involving W. F. Feagin, head of the State Board of Administration in the Democratic Miller administration.

Pin Hopes To Attack On Miller

This writer learned with some interest and a great deal of satisfaction that Imperial Klan Representative Hamp Draper was not behind the attack. It was engineered by 16 members, or former members of the klan, and it was thought that perhaps an attack on Gov. Miller through W. F. Feagin would serve to revive an organization that needs burial or whose remains need to be disposed of in some way. Hamp Draper the writer learned, is not of a caliber to start such an attack. Mr. Draper served as head of the convict bureau for Gov. Graves and he ordered, or approved, the whipping of recalcitrant convicts, and so far as is known has no apology to offer. Mr. Draper is a good politician and was a supporter of Senator Heflin and Hugh Locke and most of the men and women, or practically all of them in his State department were also, but he has never been known to countenance such an attack as was launched recently in Birmingham by a few klansmen, or exklansmen. The Imperial Representative is a scrapper but so far he has not been known to resort to such personalities as have come up in the attack of a few klansmen on the Miller administration indirectly or a personal attack on W. F. Feagin.

1-9-32

The writer talked to a large number of former Klansmen, many of them having once been members of the famous T. A. anti-Catholic organization in Birmingham. In not one instance did one of the better informed men of the old organization, and many of them were members of the succeeding Klan organization, approve of the attack on the Miller Democratic State administration. They deplored the personal attacks on Mr. Feagin. They said that was not the way to fight and that honest criticism of an administration was always permissible, but to vilify an administration by bringing up personalities against an appointee was quite beyond their ideas of the thing to do.

One Guess, Who Is He?

As a matter of fact a disgruntled member of the Alabama Legislature from Jefferson County, a man who writes for a Republican paper, is the real instigator of the mass meeting in Birmingham. And they say up there that it was this man who prevailed upon his own pastor to make a speech at the mass meeting. It is also freely stated that this pastor is out of his established church and that he is not even a citizen of the United States. Whether the talk about this pastor is true or not, the talk continues and so far has not been denied.

The disgruntled member of the Jefferson delegation made every effort to get his uncle appointed to a place in the Miller administration. It is openly stated that he blames W. F. Feagin for his failure to get his uncle appointed.

He has the columns of a Republican paper open to him and this is a Democratic administration in Alabama. The better element in Birmingham put these things together with the result that there is no general approval of what is going on against a Democratic administration in Alabama. Many think that it is but another way of keeping alive in a presidential year the disgruntled elements of the Democratic party if Hoover is to carry Alabama. The Republican paper in Birmingham to which reference has been made, supported Hoover in 1928 and LaFollette in 1924.

'AGAINST COMMUNISM'

Advertiser 1-8-32

The order of Black Shirts, described by Berto Johnson, member of the order, as patriotic organization "to combat communistic influence in Montgomery," will meet at 8:15 tonight at the Court House. Several speakers and organizers from Atlanta will address the gathering, Mr. Johnson said. Mr. Johnson said that there was about 100 members of the organization in the city.

Klu Klux Klan—1932

Florida

'BLACK SHIRTS' WARNED AGAINST PARADE HERE

Announcement by H. J. Gewinner, "adjutant-general of the American Fascisti, Order of the Black Shirts, incorporated in Florida," that the organization will stage a parade at 8 o'clock on the night of May 31 and will have a speaking program at the state capitol, Saturday met with warning from Solicitor-General John A. Boykin that activities of the order lay participants liable to citation for contempt of court.

In 1930, Gewinner and others applied for a charter as the American Fascisti Association and Order of Black Shirts, and a Florida corporation intervened, claiming prior rights as the chartered American Fascisti, Order of Black Shirts. Judge G. H. Howard of Fulton superior court, after Solicitor-General Boykin attacked the fascisti, denied the charter petition and restrained both the Georgia and Florida organizations from operating in this state.

FLOGGERS OF FLORIDA CLAIM 19 VICTIMS

Three More Report Beatings By Gangs.

GUARD PUBLIC MORALS

Band Whipping Men and Women for Any Cause Believed by Officials to Be "Self-Appointed Guardians."

By The Associated Press.

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., Oct. 25.—With reports today of floggings, authorities pushed their search for members of a whipping band reputed to have beaten at least 19 persons here recently.

The floggers are believed to be members of one gang "self appointed guardians of the public morals," Sergt. G. P. Watkins of the Riverside police station, in which district most of the victims live, said.

Women First to Report.

"There really is no way of telling just how many have been waited on by the floggers," Sergeant Watkins said. When the first reports came in from two women who were beaten last Tuesday night by a mob of eight men, no previous reports had been received by the police.

"They broke the ice," the sergeant said, "and nearly every day since we have had from one to half a dozen reports of this brutality."

To date, police record show that 19 persons had fallen victim to the lash, including five women.

One of the men who reported today told the police that he was so badly beaten he had to lie on his face for a week. He said that the mob informed him that he was not taking proper care of his family. That was last June, he said, and he had been out of a job for months before and ever since.

Meanwhile the grand jury has been called into special session tomorrow to investigate the lawlessness. Five men have been arrested and were identified, police said, by Mrs. Sallie Geringer and her 20-year-old daughter, Ola Bell Gilstrap.

Accused of Bootlegging.

These women told police that they were forced from their home, taken six miles into the country and flogged with a leather strap by eight men. The mob, they said, accused them of selling whisky.

Police have withheld the names of other victims.

Some, Sergeant Watkins said, told of being whipped "because they sold liquor or ran disorderly houses or were not supporting his family, and in one case a woman was beaten because she was charged with living in a negro section."

Many of the charges, the officer said, were proved unfounded

Fifteen witnesses have been summoned to appear before the grand jury.

A paid advertisement appearing in a newspaper today over the signature of Georg J. Garcia, grand dragon of the Ku Klux Klan, said that organization was "in no way responsible for the recent epidemic of whippings or floggings that have occurred in this vicinity." The advertisement pledged the klan's cooperation with authorities.

Three new complaints were filed with the police today, five last night, one yesterday and 10 previously.

Startling News Seen In Flogging Probe

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., Oct. 28.—(AP)—Startling developments, the nature of which was not disclosed, were promised by the police tomorrow, as the Duval county grand jury again resumes its investigation into the recent flogging here of 19 persons.

Already six suspects have been arrested, identified, the authorities said, by the mob victims. The grand jury was called into session and Judge George C. Gibbs delivered the first special charge in 14 years regarding the responsibility of protecting citizens of the county from mob violence.

First reports of lawlessness came a little more than a week ago when two women, Mrs. Sallie Geringer and her 20-year-old daughter, Ola Bell Gilstrap, told the police they had been taken from their home into a forest and whipped with leather straps by a band of eight men.

They have identified five of the six suspects under arrest, the police announced. The other man under arrest as an alleged flogger was arrested after he had testified before the grand jury, when he was pointed out by one of the victims. All six are at liberty under $1,000 bond each.

Names of the other 17 mob victims were not disclosed by the police.

Five New Floggings Reported in Florida

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., Oct. 24.—(AP)—Reports of five new floggings adding to the lengthening list of whippings here and elsewhere in Florida, were received at police headquarters tonight following announcement that the county grand jury would institute an investigation Wednesday morning.

The new cases reported brought to 16 the number of floggings or attempted beatings in recent weeks.

As in all of the other cases except two, police withheld names of the latest victims. Reports were that they would appear before the grand jury called into session by Foreman R. L. Tilley.

Meanwhile, city police were instructed by Mayor John T. Alsop to take every means of breaking up the crimes.

FLORIDA FLOGGING PROBE IS PUSHED

Three Additional Whippings In State Reported As Police Hurry Investigation

JACKSONVILLE, FLA., Oct. 25.—(AP)—With three additional reports today of floggings, authorities pushed their search for members of a whipping band reputed to have beaten at least 19 persons here recently.

Officers said they believed the floggers are members of one gang "self appointed guardians of the public morals," to quote Precinct Sergeant G. P. Watkins, of the Riverside Police Station, in which district most of the victims live.

"There really is no way of telling just how many have been waited on by the floggings," Sergt. Watkins said. When the first reports came in from two women who were beaten last Tuesday night by a mob of eight men, no previous reports had been received by the police.

"They broke the ice," the Sergeant said, "and nearly every day since we have had from one to half a dozen reports of this brutality."

To date, records in the police department and the sheriff's office show 19 persons had fallen victim to the lash, including five white women.

One of the men who reported today told police he was so badly beaten he had to lie on his face for a week. He said the mob informed him he was not taking proper care of his family. That was last June, he said, and he had been out of a job for months before and ever since.

Meanwhile, the Duval Grand Jury has been called into special session tomorrow to investigate the lawlessness. Five men have been arrested and were identified police said, by Mrs. Sallie Geringer and her 20-year-old daughter, Ola Bell Gilstrap.

These women told police they were forced from their home, taken six miles into the country and flogged with a leather strap by eight white men. The mob, they said, accused them of selling whisky.

Police have withheld the names of other victims on the ground it might hinder their investigation to make names and details public.

"Oddly," Sergt. Watkins said, "in such cases there has been no complaint reported where the victim was told he or she was being whipped for some statutory offense."

"Some," he said, "told of being whipped because they sold liquor or ran disorderly houses or were not supporting his family and in one case a woman was beaten because she was charged with living in a negro section."

Many of the charges the officer said were proved unfounded by the police.

Fifteen witnesses have been summoned to appear before the Grand Jury and R. L. Talley, the jury foreman, said an invitation was extended to any one who knew of this kind of lawlessness to appear and testify.

A paid advertisement appearing in a newspaper today over the signature of George J. Garcia, grand dragon of the Ku Klux Klan, said that organization was in "no way responsible for the recent epidemic of whippings or floggings that have occurred in this vicinity." The advertisement pledged the Klan's cooperation with authorities in arresting those responsible.

Three new complaints were filed with the police today, five last night, one yesterday and ten previously.

SIXTH MAN HELD IN FLORIDA FLOGGINGS

16 Testify Before Grand Jury At Jacksonville And One Is Arrested.

JACKSONVILLE, FLA., Oct. 26.—(AP)—A sixth suspect was arrested today as he finished testifying before the Duval County Grand Jury investigating the recent flogging of 19 persons here.

J. C. Godwin was seized by a police lieutenant when he stepped from the Grand Jury room and was docketed on a charge of "assault to murder." Later he was released on $1,000 bond.

Lieut. W. O. Solcox said one of the victims has identified Godwin as a member of the band which gave him a severe whipping. The nature of Godwin's testimony before the grand jury was not disclosed.

Sixteen persons, six of them women, lined the corridor outside the grand jury room. They were called one at a time for questioning.

Whether they were victims or merely had evidence they believed the grand jury should hear, was not known. They maintained stolid silence when questioned by reporters as they awaited their turn to testify.

Of the 19 victims of the lash, five are women.

One other man told the police today he was a victim of a mob flogging two years ago, but Lieut. Solcox said a subsequent investigation disclosed he had not been beaten, but merely warned to leave town.

Five men, previously arrested and identified as members of a mob which brutally beat Mrs. Sallie Geringer and her daughter, Ola Bell Gilstrap, are at liberty under $1,000 bond each, pending a preliminary hearing.

Names of the other 17 victims and details of their cases were withheld by the police, pending further investigation.

The authorities said the victims were classified as 12 white men, five white women, and two negroes.

4 MORE FLORIDANS FLOGGING VICTIMS

Total Who Charge Beatings by Band of Mobsters Reach 10.

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., Oct. 22.—(AP)—Four more persons reported to the authorities here today they had been victims of floggers, bringing to 10 the number who said they were beaten or mistreated by mobsters recently.

Five of the alleged victims are women, including a mother and daughter, two are white men and three are negroes.

Sheriff's deputies and the police withheld the names of those who reported today, saying secrecy would aid them in their investigation of the cases.

One of the floggings occurred last August, a woman told authorities. She said she feared further punishment from the floggers if she reported it sooner.

This woman said two cars loaded with white men came to her chicken farm in East Jacksonville, severely beat her with a stick and left her there, telling her the reason for their act was because she "lived in a negro district."

Runs Chicken Farm.

The woman denied this, saying she owned property in the district and operated a chicken farm on it, but did not live there.

The other woman who reported her case today lives in the Orange Park road section.

Two white men reporting today live in the Lackawanna section and near

Ortega.

In every instance, authorities reported, the floggings and beatings have occurred late at night or before dawn in the mornings. Also in every instance there has been more than one carload of men participating. Some of the victims said they would have no trouble identifying their assailants.

While deputies and detectives followed tips they hoped would lead to further arrests—five men already have been arrested and, police said, identified by two women victims.

The five men, who have been released on bond on charges of assault with intent to murder, were pointed out, the police said, by Mrs. Sally Geringer, 38, and her 20-year-old daughter by a former marriage, Ola Bell Gilstrap.

Beaten With Strap.

The women claim they were taken to the woods six miles from the city by eight men and severely beaten with a large leather strap.

A third woman, whose name police declined to reveal, told officers yesterday she had been forced from her home by a band of men, but resisted when they attempted to put her in an automobile and was struck on the head with a piece of 2x4 timber. Her assailants fled after striking her. She said she had not yet recovered from the blow.

Three negroes, one of them a janitor at a high school, previously had reported beatings they received at the hands of floggers. The janitor said the men who lashed him said he was "holding a white man's job."

Police Lieutenant W. O. Silcox, in charge of the Riverside precinct station who is leading the investigation for the police, today expressed the belief the floggings were the work of a band of 12 or 18 men.

Silcox said he had reason to believe the band has set a quota of one whipping per week.

In each instance, the officer declared, the victims were told why they were being beaten or mistreated, and in some of the cases investigated has proven the floggers' charges unfounded.

Florida Cleans Up

For a great many years now—for some time before the New York World died—the name of Florida was synonymous with brutality in prison camps. Georgia's record has not been much better, but we have made some advances in this state. There are camps which still have stocks and there are said to be camps which have the sweat box, although we do not know any. There are still brutal guards, as two recent cases have developed, and we do not expect any miraculous turn of events to produce either a set of docile prisoners or humanitarian convict guards, particularly when they are paid $40 to $60 a month. In spite of these conditions, however, we have made progress in Georgia.

Florida is out to clean up both her prison camps and her flogging, which have been epidemic around Jacksonville for some time. A Jacksonville judge sentenced George W. Courson, the convict guard whose cruelty killed Arthur Maillefert, a young prisoner who died of strangulation in a sweat box, to 20 years in the penitentiary.

At the same time, identification of the men who have been doing the flogging around Jacksonville was being made in a room in the courthouse. These men have been carrying on a campaign of fear, taking the law into their own hands, not to administer legal punishment but to carry out their own prejudices. They whipped one woman because, they allege, she lived in or near a Negro quarter. They whipped a man because they did not like his conduct. The floggings appear to have been the relicts of the prejudice already latent and engendered by the Ku Klux Klan and Black Shirt activities.

Georgia had a series of those floggings in 1922. She learned the way to stop them was to put a few floggers in jail.

Florida White Gang Charged with 10 Whippings in Reign of Terror

One White Woman Whipped Because She Lived in Negro Neighborhood. Negroes Driven from Work Through Fear.

JACKSONVILLE, Fla.—Belief that an organized gang is operating here on a set quota of one flogging a week, administered to some person accused by the band of activities to which its objects, was expressed by police this week following upon reports of additional whippings which brought to ten the number recently reported.

Men and women, Negroes and whites in about equal numbers were the victims of the reported beatings.

Reasons assigned for the attacks, said Police Lieut. W. O. Silcox, who is leading the investigation, ranged from charges of bootlegging to living in a Negro district" and "holding a white man's job." Officers said some of the men's charges had been investigated and found false.

Four new reports of flogging were received today, police said. Five of the victims are women, two are white men, and three are Negroes.

The names of persons reporting they had been beaten were withheld in most cases, officers saying that secrecy would assist their investigation.

One woman reported she had been attacked last August, but had feared to say anything until the investigation began. She said she was afraid she would be punished further.

White men in two automobiles came to her chicken farm in East Jacksonville, this woman said, and severely beat her with a stick, telling her they did so because she "lived in a Negro district." She denied she lived in such a district, saying she owned property there and operated the chicken farm on it, but did not live there.

Another of those reporting today was a woman, and other two were men.

It was Lieutenant Silcox, who said his investigation had led him to believe the floggers' schedule called for one beating a week.

He said he believed the same band of from twelve to eighteen men had perpetrated all of the attacks. In every instance, police said, the floggings have occurred late at night or shortly before dawn. More than one carload of men has participated in all of them.

Some of the victims, officers said, have declared they could easily identify their assailants.

Five men, arrested as members of the flogging gang, already have been identified by Mrs. Sally Geringer, 38, and her daughter, Ola Bell Gilstrap, as members of the party that took them to a woods and beat them with a leather strap.

The night before the women said that occurred, they reported a band of men had invaded their home, accusing them of selling liquor and ordering them to vacate the place. All five of the men denied having participated in the flogging.

Organized Band of Floggers Hunted in Jacksonville Area

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., Oct. 25.—(AP)—With three additional reports today of floggings, the authorities pushed their search for members of a whipping band, which is alleged to have beaten at least 19 persons here in recent months.

Officers said they believed the mobsters to be members of a single gang, "self appointed guardians of the public morals," to quote Precinct Sergeant G. P. Watkins, of the Riverside police station, in which district most of the alleged victims have reported.

"There really is no way of telling just how many have been waited on by the floggers," Sergeant Watkins said today. When the first reports came in from two women who were beaten last Tuesday night by a mob of eight men, no previous reports had been received by the police.

"They broke the ice," the police sergeant said, "and nearly every day since we have had from one to half a dozen reports of this brutality."

To date, records in the police department and the sheriff's office showed 19 persons had fallen victim to the lash, including five white women.

One of the men who reported today told the police he was so beaten that he had to lie on his face for a week. He said the mob informed him he was not taking proper care of his family. That was last June, he said, and he had been out of a job for months before and ever since.

Meanwhile, the Duval grand jury has been called into special session tomorrow to investigate the lawlessness. Five men have been arrested and were identified, police said, by Mrs. Sallie Geringer and her 20-year-old daughter, Ola Bell Gilstrap.

These women told the police they were forced from their home, taken six miles into the country and flogged with a leather strap by eight white men. The mobsters, they said, accused them of selling whisky.

The police have withheld the names of other whipping victims, on the ground that it might hinder their investigation to make names and details public.

NINE F... NAMED B... IN FLOGGING QUIZ

Indictments Returned at Jacksonville After Victims of Attacks Identify Prisoners.

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., Oct. 31.—(AP)—Nine men were named in 24 indictments returned by the Duval county grand jury today in connection with the recent flogging of 20 persons here.

The defendants were charged with the whipping of two women, Mrs. Sally Geringer and her daughter, Ola Bell Gilstrap, and four men, A. R. Berg, Smith Kelly, O. K. Mikell and Stewart Burroughs.

No indictments were returned in connection with the flogging of 14 other persons, who told police they recently were made victims of terrorists.

The grand jury still is in session, but whether it would return addition indictments in the whipping cases authorities would not say.

Those named in the presentment today gave their names as J. L. Nettles, W. A. Jackson, Oscar Bessent, J. C. Godwin, E. M. Rabb, C. C. Rabb, Hugh Laseter, L. C. Bowers and Horace Starling.

All have been arrested and identified, police said, by some of the victims.

Bond was set at $5,000 for Nettles, Jackson, Godwin, Bessent and Laseter, and $3,000 for Starling, Bowers and the two Rabb men.

All were bound over to criminal court for trial.

Charges included in the indictment ranged from assault with intent to murder, to aggravated assault, unlawful assembly, false and illegal imprisonment and robbery.

Mrs. Geringer and her daughter were the only two of the victims whose names previously were made public by authorities.

The women claim a group of men came to their house at night, forced them into an automobile and took them to a near-by woods, where they were whipped with straps.

They said the men accused them of selling liquor and operating a disorderly house, but they denied the charge.

Vera Mae Gilstrap, an expectant mother and another daughter of Mrs. Geringer, was one of the state's principal witnesses. She said she dissuaded the men from molesting her because of her condition.

Eight of the indictments charged that on October 18, E. M. Rabb, C. C. Rabb, Bowers, Jackson and Starling unlawfully confined Mrs. Geringer and her daughter, Ola Bell, and beat them with a leather strap.

Ku Klux Klan - 1932

Florida

Flogging Victims Identify 3 More Alleged Attackers

Courier-Journal 11-30-32
Atlanta, Ga.

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., Oct. 29.—(AP)—Identified by flogging victims and witnesses in the ante-room of the grand jury chamber as participants in the attacks, three additional men were arrested today and taken immediately before the grand jury, which court officers said probably would return indictments Monday.

Six others previously held also were identified in the police lineup, some of them by additional victims and witnesses. Six of those held as suspects were released when they were not picked out of the parade.

Thirteen victims of the reported beatings and eight witnesses reviewed the lineup. Some of the six men previously identified as members of the flogging gang were singled out by additional victims today. All of the nine were identified by from one to seven of those who saw the lineup.

The newly identified men were booked as Oscar Bessant, Hugh Laseter and Leslie Nettles.

Those previously held and free under bond are J. C. Godwin, Horace Starling, W. A. Jackson, L. C. Bowers, C. C. Rabb and E. M. Rabb.

Seven of the 20 persons who reported they had been beaten did not attend the lineup today.

Jackson was identified by seven of those present, Starling and C. C. Rabb by four, Bessant and Godwin by three, E. M. Rabb and Bowers by two, and Laseter and Nettles by one each.

Police Lieutenant W. A. Silcox, who announced soon after the investigation began that he had information indicating all the floggings were committed by one band of 12 to 18 men, operating on a set quota of one beating a week, officiated at the parade with Detective Inspector E. L. Acosta and Sergeant A. B. Canova.

Hearing Date Set.

Hearing for the six men previously held has been set for next Wednesday. No announcement was made concerning a hearing for the three new ones.

Four of the flogging victims present today were women.

The names of only two of the victims reporting have been made public by police. They are Mrs. Sally Geringer, 38, and her daughter, Ola Bell Gilstrap. They said they had been abducted from their home, taken to a woods and beaten by men who accused them of selling liquor and running a disorderly house. They denied the band's charges.

Officers said another white woman had been attacked by men who accused her of "living in a negro district," which she denied, and a negro man had been beaten by a band that told him he was "holding a white man's job" in serving as janitor at a school.

Fierce looks were exchanged between some of the victims, still bearing scars and bruises, and several of the accused, as the suspects were led into the identification room to be viewed before being taken before the grand jury.

"Save that baby for me," one of the victims said to officers as a suspect was taken from the identification room.

"Since I got whipped, I got a 'mowing machine' at my house and I'd like to turn it on that guy when you get through with him."

Another of the victims, a woman, clenched her hands, gritted her teeth and made a move as if she would kick another of the suspects when he was brought into the room.

"That's the guy," she shouted after the suspect was taken outside. "I'd give a million dollars to get my hands on him."

Vera May Gilstrap, an expectant mother, and sister of Ola Bell Gilstrap, was among seven other witnesses summoned to the identification room in addition to the 13 victims. She identified some of the men she said went to her house but did not molest her after she told them of her condition.

Seven of the 20 persons who have reported they had been flogged did not answer summons to the identification process today. Police said one of them is "conveniently sick in a hospital," and that they had been unable to locate the other six.

Officers said those seven probably had been intimidated and were afraid to face the suspects.

LASH VICTIMS TO BE CALLED IN STATE QUIZ

Telegraph

Florida Grand Jury to Meet Today in Jacksonville on Whipping Inquiry

10-26-32

NEW COMPLAINTS ARE FILED

Macon, Ga.

Reports Begin to Pour in After Two Women Talk; One Man Terribly Beaten

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., Oct. 25 (AP) With three additional reports Tuesday of floggings, authorities pushed their search for members of a whipping band which is alleged to have beaten at least 19 persons here in recent months.

Officers said they believed the mobsters to be members of a single gang, "self appointed guardians of the public morals," to quote Precinct Sergeant G. P. Watkins, of the Riverside police station, in which district most of the alleged victims have reported.

"There really is no way of telling just how many have been waited on by the floggers," Sergeant Watkins said Tuesday. When the first reports came in from two women who were beaten last Tuesday night by a mob of eight men, no previous reports had been received by the police.

Ice Is Broken

"They broke the ice," the police sergeant said, "and nearly every day since we have had from one to half a dozen reports of this brutality."

To date, records in the police department and the sheriff's office showed 19 persons had fallen victim to the lash, including five white women.

One of the men who reported Tuesday told the police he was so beaten that he had to lie on his face for a week. He said the mob informed him he was not taking proper care of his family. That was last June, he said, and he had been out of a job for months before and ever since.

Grand Jury Called

Meanwhile the Duval county grand jury has been called into special session Wednesday to investigate the lawlessness. Five men have been arrested and were identified, police said, by Mrs. Sallie Geringer, and he. 20-year-old daughter, Ola Gilstrap.

The women were flogged with a leather strap by eight white men. The mobsters, they said, accused them of selling whisky.

Some, Sergeant Watkins said, told of being whipped "because they sold liquor, or ran disorderly houses, or not supporting his family, and in one case a woman was beaten because she was charged with living in a Negro section."

Many of the charges, the officer said, proved unfounded when investigated by the police.

A paid advertisement appearing in a local newspaper Tuesday over the signature of George J. Garcia, grand dragon of the Ku Klux Klan, said that organization was "in no way responsible for the recent epidemic of whippings or floggings that have occurred in this vicinity." The advertisement pledged the Klan's cooperation with authorities in apprehending those responsible.

Three new complaints were filed with the police Tuesday, two Monday night, one Monday and 10 previously.

Nine Florid... 13 Who W... Are Paraded Before Victims

...ing Suspects ... Help Identify Group

10-30-32

JACKSONVILLE, FLA., Oct. 29.—(AP)—Identified by flogging victims and witnesses in the anteroom of the Grand Jury chamber as participants in the attacks, three additional men were arrested today and taken before the jurors.

Officers said the jury probably would return indictments Monday.

Six others arrested previously also were identified by the victims in the police line-up. Six others held as suspects were released.

Thirteen victims and eight witnesses reviewed the line-up. Some of the six men, previously identified as members of the flogging gang, were singled out by additional victims today. All of the nine were identified by from one to seven of those who saw the line-up.

The newly identified men were booked as Oscar Bessant, Hugh Laseter, and Leslie Nettles.

Those previously held and free under bond are J. C. Godwin, Horace Starling, W. A. Jackson, L. C. Bowers, C. C. Rabb and E. M. Rabb.

Seven of the 20 persons who reported they had been beaten did not attend the line-up today.

Jackson was identified by seven of those present, Starling and C. C. Rabb by four, Bessant and Godwin by three E. M. Rabb and Bowers by two, and Lasseter and Nettles by one each.

Police Lieut. W. O. Silcox, who announced soon after the investigation began that he had information indicating all the floggings were committed by one band of 12 to 18 men, operating on a set quota of one beating a week, officiated at the parade with Detective Inspector E. L. Acosta and Sergt. A. B. Canova.

Four of the victims present today were women.

The names of only two victims have been made public by police. They are Mrs. Sally Geringer, 38, and her daughter, Ola Bell Gilstrap. They said they were abducted from their home, taken to a wood and beaten by men who accused them of selling liquor and running a disorderly house.

Officers said another white woman was attacked by men who accused her of "living in a negro district," which she denied, and a negro man was beaten by a band that told him he was "holding a white man's job" in serving as janitor at a school.

POLICEWOMAN GETS FLOGGING CASE THREAT

Columbia, S. C.

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., Oct. 24.—(AP) Receipt of an anonymous telephone call advising her to "lay off" an investigation into the flogging of 10 persons here recently was reported today by Mrs. Mittie G. Tipton, policewoman.

She said the conversation, centered principally on the case of Mrs. Sally Geringer and daughter, Ola Bell Gilstrap, who, with three other women and five men, whose names were withheld by police, said they had been whipped by bands of men.

9 Men Indicted As Members Of Flogging Gang

Atlanta, Ga.

JACKSONVILLE, FLA., Oct. 31.—(AP)—Nine men identified as members of a gang that flogged a score of people here in recent months were indicted today by the Duval County Grand Jury.

Charges set forth included "unlawful assembly to premediatatedly effect death, aggravated assault, false and illegal imprisonment, and robbery."

Those named in the bills were: J. L. Nettles, W. A. Jackson, Oscar Bessant, J. C. Godwin, E. M. Rabb, C. C. Rabb, Hugh Laseter, L. C. Bower and Horace Starling.

The victims were named as Mrs. Sallie Geringer, Ola Belle Gilstrap, A. R. Berg, Smith Kelly, [illegible] Mikell and Stewart Burroughs. Officers withheld the names of the other victims, saying publicity would hinder their investigation.

The men indicted were singled out of a police line-up Saturday when suspects were paraded before 13 victims and eight witnesses.

Investigation of the flogging began with the report of Mrs. Geringer and her daughter that they were abducted from their home by a dozen men, some of them masked, who accused them of selling liquor and running disorderly house. They were taken to a wood and severely beaten with straps.

Florida Floggers Caught, Had Planned a Whipping a Week

JACKSONVILLE, Fla.—(CNS)—Five white men have been arrested and identified as members of an organized gang operating on a set schedule to flog one or more persons each week; the flogging to be administered to some person accused by the band of activities to which it objected. Police report that a score of such floggings have been brought to their attention. Men and women, Negroes and whites, in approximately equal numbers were the victims of the reported beatings.

Reasons assigned for the attacks range from charges of bootlegging to "living in Negro district" and "holding a white man's job." Officers said that some of the charges against the persons flogged had been investigated and found false.

The most recent floggings include five women, two ofays and five colored. The names of persons reporting they had been beaten were withheld in most cases, officers saying that secrecy would assist their investigation.

One victim, a high school janitor, was reported by police to have said that the gang told him he was being beaten for "holding a white man's job."

Investigation tends to show that the band consisted of from 12 to 18 men who had perpetrated all of the attacks. In every instance, police said, the floggings have occurred late at night or shortly before dawn. More than one car load of men has participated in all of them.

Some of the victims, officers said, have declared that they could easily identify their assailants, and the five men arrested have been identified by Mrs. Sally Geringer, 38, and her daughter, Ola Bell Gilstrap, as members of the party that took them to a woods and beat them with a leather strap. The night before the women said that flogging occurred, they reported a band of men had invaded their home accusing them of selling liquor and ordering them to vacate the place. All five of the men denied having participated in the flogging.

FLORIDA LAUNCHES FIGHT ON FLOGGERS

Jacksonville Judge Tells Grand Jury To Protect Citizens From Mob Actions

JACKSONVILLE, FLA., Oct. 27.—(AP)—The Duval County Grand Jury was brought into open court today and instructed by Circuit Judge George Couper Gibbs to protect residents from mob floggings.

The jurist's charge was prompted by more than a score of people reporting to Jacksonville police that they have been whipped recently by a gang that accused them of offenses, including selling liquor, running disorderly houses, failing to support families, and disregarding the custom that segregates white dwellings from negro residential sections.

Judge Gibbs told the jurors to investigate the floggings "deeply" and said "the integrity of this State and the administration of justice are at stake." He described conditions as "deplorable" and pledged the resources of the court and all law enforcement agencies to aid them.

"This wholesale violation of the law can not pass unnoticed by this court," he added. "Go deep into the investigation without fear or favor and present all things truly as they come to your knowledge to the best of your understanding."

Six persons have been arrested in connection with the mob floggings. All are at liberty under bond of $1,000 each.

Ten days ago two women, a mother and her daughter, made the first reports about being flogged. Mrs. Sallie Geringer and her 20-year-old daughter, Ola Bell Gilstrap, told how eight men had taken them from their home into a forest and there applied the strap to their bodies.

Since then each succeeding day has brought other victims to the authorities with stories of unmerciful beatings. Some of them occurred several months ago. They were afraid before, they said, to disclose their cases to the police because of warnings by the floggers.

The Grand Jury continued its quiz of witnesses today and was expected to make a report to the court before the weekend.

MEMPHIS, TENN.
COMMERCIAL APPEAL
OCT 27 1932

Flogging for Morality

Not in some few years has the self-righteous holier than thou creed possessed more militant or more ruthless apostles than the gang of 10 or 12 men in Jacksonville, Florida, who are conducting regular early morning floggings. They have their own moral code which they place above the sublimely just injunction of the Master that would prohibit all but him without sin from casting stones at sinners. The night riding moralists of Jacksonville are lashing whips across the backs of men and women not only because of assumed violations of the moral code but also because the victims are trying to eke out existences in the best way they can under present conditions.

For their lawlessness in scourging those accused of violating the liquor laws the whip swinging moralists have ample justification in the lawless manner that law enforcing officers have acted in enforcing the same laws. As for the women suspected of committing one of the world's original sins the floggers might claim some support from the cruel and frequently hypocritical attitude of society in the matter.

But not cruelty, not hypocrisy, not even lawless law enforcement can be put forward in extenuation of the flogging of the poor woman who had a poultry farm in a negro section and looked after her interest there. Nor can the beating of negroes for holding jobs given to them be extenuated on the grounds that they were keeping others from work. The negroes are under the necessity of working in order to live just the same as anyone else.

Police say that some of those subjected to lashings are completely innocent of the charges assumed against them. But this will not make the slightest bit of difference to the ever self-righteous floggers. If they had any single idea that any one other than themselves or any course other than the one they are pursuing could be right, they would not continue in such patent lawlessness.

Self-righteousness of that sort is invincible to even the conception of wrong except outside of itself.

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It is claimed that the investigation shows that the floggers' schedule called for one beating a week.

The grand dragon of the Ku Klux Klan here, inserted a paid advertisement in a newspaper, saying that the organization was "in no way whatever responsible for the recent epidemic of whippings or floggings that have occurred in this vicinity."

The advertisement promised the Klan's co-operation in arresting the floggers.

ONE BEATEN FOR HOLDING WHITE MAN'S POSITION

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., Nov. 3—(CNS) — Five white men have been arrested and identified as members of an organized gang operating on a set schedule to flog one or more persons each week; the flogging to be administered to some person accused by the band of activities to which it objected. Police report that a score of such floggings have

Klu Klux Klan-1932

Florida

FLORIDA GOVERNOR TELLS N. A. A. C. P. WILL PROSECUTE FLOGGERS

Savannah Journal

OFFICIALS CALLED FOR PROMPT INVESTIGATION

Savannah Ga

12-21-32

New York, Dec. 16.—Governor Doyle E. Carlton of Florida has written to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in reply to its communication of Dec .2, giving assurance that the brutal flogging of two citizens of Clearwater will have his early attention and saying: "I am calling upon the proper officials for a prompt investigation of the matter and punishment of the guilty parties."

Meanwhile the stir created by the brutal assaults upon the men who dared to protest against discrimination in the distribution of free government flour, has causesd an exodus of northern tourist from the vicinity, according to reports reaching the N. A. A. C. P.

The report to the N. A. A. C. P. states that the mobbists evidently intended to discourage the activities of W. D. Williams in behalf of his race.

"I believe they thought by inflicting such treatment," says the report to the N. A. A. C. P., "he would be made to cease his activities as a whole and probably leave this community. His activities along many lines tended to enlighten the average unthoughtful Negro. This kind of advice the southern cracker tries to keep from the average Negro in the South. Meetings have been held by several civic organizations regarding legal action against those who perpetrated this crime which cast a blemish on the fair name of this winter tourist city.

"The incoming northern tourists and visitors for the winter are leaving in large numbers since reading the headlines in last week's papers regarding the activities against the colored people by these hoodlums. The mayor has been touring the Negro section making speeches deploring this treatment of these two Negro men and citizens. But we have our opinion of him."

GOVERNOR ASKED TO PUNISH MOBBISTS WHO FLOGGED TWO PROTESTANTS OF J-C RELIEF

Savannah Journal

12-10-32

Special to Journal and Guide

NEW YORK.—Governor Doyle E Carlton of Florida has been asked in a letter sent by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to prosecute a group of mobbists who, masquerading as Federal officers, brutally flogged colored citizens of Clearwater, Fla., for heading a Colored Welfare League and reporting discrimination in the distribution of government flour by the Red Cross.

Norfolk

"From the information that has come to us," says the N. A. A. C. P. letter, "these two men, W. D. Williams and M. Harvey, were taken out and flogged on Nov. 4, 1932, just four days after they had consulted with City Manager H. S. Riddle and Mayor H. H. Baskin regarding the Colored Welfare League of which Mr. Williams was an official.

"The purposes of the Colored Welfare League were explained to the two city officials and they are said to have lauded its objective of improving the colored citizens of Clearwater and stimulating their interest in civic betterment."

Previous to the conference, complaint made to the N. A. A. C. P. by Clearwater citizens had been forwarded to the Red Cross in Washington, which asked for a report from Florida and ordered the discrimination stopped.

Mr. Williams, according to a report sent from Tampa, was so severely beaten with leather and rubber hose that the blood streamed down his back. Mr. Harvey was forced to leave his family and property in Clearwater. Mr. Williams was also kicked in the stomach and an X-ray was required to determine the extent of the injury he received.

A number of white people have expressed abhorrence for the brutal attack on the two colored men, both of whom had a high standing in their community.

In concluding its letter the N. A. A. C. P. urges the Governor "as chief executive of Florida to cause an investigation to be made into the flogging of these two men at Clearwater, to the end that prosecution of the perpetrators may be launched and punishment assessed."

SUSPECTS RELEASED IN FLOGGING PROBE

Savannah Ga

12-13-32

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., Nov. 4.—(AP)—Twelve suspects were released today after they could not be identified by 19 persons who told police they recently were flogged by a band of terrorists here.

Klu Klux Klan-1932

Atlanta, Ga., Georgian
Friday, April 8, 1932

Report Black Shirts Active in 5 States

Activities of the American Fascisti, Order of the Black Shirts, Inc., have been pushed recently in five states, according to the announcement of Atlanta members, and large attendances have been reported at meetings in Chattanooga. H. J. Gewinner, former adjutant general of the order, reinstated in his old position, is engaged in organization work. Meetings have been held regularly in Atlanta at the Red Men's Wigwam. The organization is operating under a charter granted in Florida.

N. Y. SUN
DEC 10 1932

50 Famous Trials—Ku Klux Klan

Outcome of a Prosecution of Members of the Original Order—Trial No. 41.

By R. CORNELIUS RABY.

The Ku Klux Klan was organized in the Southern States during the reconstruction period following the civil war and is not to be confused with the twentieth-century organization which has adopted the same name and some of the methods of the earlier order.

The organization of the original Klan, and to some extent their acts as well, were justified by conditions in the South for a few years immediately following the civil war, when that section of the country was subjected to the rule of "carpet baggers" from the North, who forced the people to organize for self-protection. To make their organization the more effective, it took the form of a secret order with robes and solemn ritual, with the object of presenting a supernatural and terrifying aspect to the Negroes, many of whom had grown insolent and overbearing with their newly gained freedom.

In the spring of 1867 the Klan held a convention at Nashville, Tenn., of delegates from all the Southern States. They adopted a declaration of principles in which the special objects of the order were stated as follows: (1) To protect the weak, the innocent and the defenceless from the indignities, wrongs and outrages of the lawless, the violent and the brutal; to relieve the injured and oppressed; to succor the suffering, and especially the widows and orphans of the Confederate soldiers. (2) To protect and defend the Constitution of the United States and all laws passed in conformity thereto, and to protect the States and people thereof from all invasion from any source whatever. (3) To aid and assist in the execution of all constitutional laws, and to protect the people from all unlawful seizure, and from trial except by their peers in conformity to the laws of the land.

It was inevitable, of course, that the Klan, although formed originally for worthy objects and composed of reputable persons, headed by the ex-Confederate Gen. Nathan B. Forrest, should in time attract to its ranks unprincipled and desperate men who went so far beyond the purposes of its founders as to commit murder and lesser atrocities on little or no provocation. In some sections the Klan embarked on a definite campaign to terrorize the Negroes so as to keep them away from the polls at election time, in contravention of their recently acquired constitutional rights.

In November, 1871, the Federal Grand Jury, in session at Columbia, S. C., found indictments against a number of Klan members on the charge of conspiring to prevent certain citizens of African descent from exercising their right to vote. The first group of four defendants were placed on trial before Judge Bond in the United States District Court on December 4. The prisoners were represented by Reverdy Johnson and Henry Stanberry, ex-Attorney-General of the United States. After motions to quash the indictment had been denied by the court, the defendants on December 9 entered a plea of guilty and threw themselves on the mercy of the court. Sentence was deferred pending the trial of Robert Hayes Mitchell, a prominent member of the Klan, who had pleaded not guilty.

The indictment against Mitchel charged him with conspiracy to prevent Negro voters from exercising their right to vote, and on a second count with conspiracy to oppress, threaten and intimidate one Jim Williams, a Negro, for having voted at an election in October, 1870. There was a third count in the indictment, but it was withdrawn by consent of the District Attorney on motion of defendant's counsel to quash this count.

Mitchell's trial began on December 11. The Government introduced proof showing the existence of the Klan organization in the county of York; that it had a constitution and by-laws and that the members were bound to secrecy by oath, the violation of which was punishable by death. It was shown that in the year 1871 large numbers of Negro citizens who were entitled to vote were visited by the Klan and whipped, and some of them murdered.

On the night of March 6, 1871, according to the prosecution's witnesses, most of whom were ex-members of the Klan, some fifty or sixty of their number assembled in an old muster field called the Briar Patch. They were mounted, armed, and attired in the full regalia of the Klan, consisting of a robe that covered the body and a hood with a mask concealing the features. They went to the home of Gadsden Steele, a Negro, whom they roused out of bed at 10 o'clock. They struck him over the head and marched him out with the command to "talk to No. 6," who was sitting on his horse in the lane. No. 6 was equipped with a pair of horns, and when Steele appeared before him he made a mock bow to the Negro and then gored him in the breast with his horns.

"Show us the way to Jim Williams's house, or we will kill you!" he said to Steele.

Another Klansman remarked, "Don't tarry here too long with this damn nigger; we have to get back to hell before daybreak."

They then proceeded to Jim Williams's house, which they reached about 2 o'clock in the morning. They broke in the door, took Williams out to the woods near by, fastened a rope about his neck and hanged him to a pine tree.

The defense introduced testimony to show that Jim Williams, just before his death, was organizing a company of militia and supplying them with Winchester rifles and ammunition. A white neighbor of Williams testified to a conversation with him in which Williams had said: "In case we don't succeed in carrying the next election we will kill from the cradle up, and we will apply the torch in every direction; we will lay waste the country generally."

The jury found Mitchell guilty on one count, but not guilty on another. When the prisoner was asked what he had to say for himself before the court should pass sentence he replied: "Well, sir, I might say right smart, and then it mightn't be much benefit. I came down here with the intention of pleading guilty, but my lawyer kept me from it and said it was best for me not to do it. I wasn't guilty of the charge, although I was guilty of being on the raid, but I didn't do anything to any one that night. I didn't know a thing about it until Sunday evening. The man was hung on Monday, and I never heard his name before in my life; I didn't know anything about it at all."

The court was impressed by the prisoner's frankness, and sentenced him to eighteen months' imprisonment and a fine of $100. Similar sentences were imposed on various other defendants who had either pleaded guilty or had been so adjudged after trial. The heaviest sentence was received by John W. Mitchell, a prominent Klan chief who was found guilty of leading raids against Negroes in which the victims were shot, whipped or otherwise maltreated. He was sentenced to five years' imprisonment and $1,000 fine.

Klu Klux Klan - 1932

'BLACK SHIRT' MEETING DISPERSED; 8 JAILED

6-1-32

Seven men and one woman were arrested Tuesday night when an organization calling itself "American Fascisti, Order of Black Shirts," attempted to hold a meeting on the state capitol grounds in behalf of the proposed $5,000,000,000 bond issue to relieve unemployment.

Those arrested were H. J. Gewinner, 125 East Lake terrace, who said he is "adjutant-general" of the national order; J. M. Strickcomb, 331 Cooper street; George Batcheler, 218 Pryor street; Lee Martin, 445 Whitehall terrace; W. G. Brown, 338 Crew street; David H. Perkins, 183 Fair street; Jack Powers, 83 Ivy street, and Mrs. D. D. Maddox, 1125 State street. Gewinner was held in $500 bond, and the others, except Mrs. Maddox, in $100 bond.

Mrs. Maddox, who denied she was part of the "Black Shirt" crowd, was released on a copy of charges after being held several hours in police station, when it was learned she was in a delicate physical condition.

Charges against those arrested were for violating section 422 of the city ordinance, which leaves permission for assemblages and parades in the discretion of the mayor and city council. Gewinner said he had violated no law, but had followed the advice given him Monday by Mayor James L. Key to hold his meeting on the capitol lawn which, Gewinner said the mayor told him, required no permit. The leader said he had not paraded, but had taken his members to the capitol in four trucks.

The cases of the eight persons arrested are scheduled to be heard in recorder's court at 2:30 o'clock this afternoon. A possibility exists that Solicitor-General Boykin may take action toward citing Gewinner for contempt of court. It was recalled that an order was signed by Judge G. H. Howard on October 17, 1930, denying the American Fascisti, Order of Black Shirts, charter rights and enjoined the organization from operating in this state.

Captain A. J. Holcombe, who first saw the four truckloads of "Black Shirts," turned in a general radio alarm, with the result that every radio cruiser in the city met the would-be demonstrators at the capitol.

EIGHT "BLACK SHIRTS" TO FACE TRIAL TODAY

Charges against seven men and a woman arrested Tuesday night in connection with an attempted demonstration by "Black Shirt" members on the capitol lawn, Wednesday afternoon were changed from "violation of Section 422" of the city ordinance to disorderly conduct, and the police court trial was postponed until 2:30 o'clock this afternoon. 6-2-32

Recorder John E. Cone, before whom the cases were to have been tried Wednesday afternoon, was informed by a defense counsel that the section under which the eight were arrested is not a law but merely a charter provision which permits council and the mayor of Atlanta to regulate the assembly of crowds. Defense counsel also protested to the recorder that city police are without authority to make arrests on the capitol grounds, which is state property, and Cone took this exception under advisement pending today's hearing.

Those to face the recorder are H. J. Gewinner, J. M. Stinchcomb, George Batcheler, Lee Martin, W. G. Brown, David H. Perkins J. M. Powell and Mrs. D. D. Maddox.

New Ku Klux Klan Group Organized

Pittsburgh Courier

6-11-32

CHICAGO, Sept. 8.—(CNS)—Following close on the rading out of such orders as the ~~Ku Klux~~ Klan and the Esskaye, both opposed to Catholics, Negroes and Communists, came last week news of a new order, the American Fascisti (Order of Black Shirts), with memberships of from $3 to $25, having no takers. The new organization is a secret society based on the order of the Fascisti, and naving as its purpose "a war against atheism and communism."

The headquarters of the organization is Atlanta, Ga. From its national secretary, W. B. Cobb comes the following outline of purpose:

"Atheism seeks to undermine religions. It asks that 'In God We Trust' be taken from our coins and attacking us by organizing school children into No-God societies. The Communists not only seek to destroy property right, but advocate the amalgamation of the white and colored races which would destroy both races and our present great civilization."

Klu Klux Klan-1932

ESSKAYE'S FOES PLOT ITS RUIN ORGANIZER SAYS

Ex-Kleagle Tells Followers About "Prosperity."

(Picture on back page.)

The power trust and the international bankers are plotting to wreck Esskaye, Inc., the "prosperity" movement in which Edward Young Clarke of Atlanta, former imperial kleagle of the Ku Klux Klan, is attempting to enlist Chicagoans on payment of $10 and $25 membership fees.

Clarke made this charge at an indignation meeting held by several hundred of his followers in the Morrison hotel last night. The meeting followed the disclosure that the ex-kleagle had been indicted at Jacksonville, Fla., for using the mails to defraud and had pleaded guilty at Houston, Tex., to a violation of the white slave law.

Prosperity Hangs in Balance.

"You good people are not interested in whether E. Y. Clarke has been a bad boy," Kleagle Clarke proclaimd. "You are interested only in whether Clarke has a solution for the depression. I tell you, fellow members in Esskaye, that when our bill to help the farmer has been put across in congress prosperity will come back in 24 hours. The power trust and the international bankers can't stop us."

"Of course we want money," he continued. "We will have to put 500 lecturers in the field to put Esskaye over. The funds ought to come from you people of the great middle class who will benefit most when prosperity comes back.

"To insinuate that E. Y. Clarke is going to use Esskaye for his own gain is a dastardly lie," the ex-kleagle asserted. "I hope to be struck dead on this platform if I have a contract to take anything more than my actual expenses out of this campaign."

Will Get Money Back.

"But the laborer is worth his hire," he explained. "Those who put money into Esskaye shall get it back. If they do the organizing job well they are entitled to money for their services, more money than the clerks of the crazy fool bankers are getting."

While the Esskaye members were applauding these remarks, dispatches arrived from his home state revealing that Clarke is wanted at Jasup, Ga., to serve a sentence of two years on the chain gang or pay a $2,000 fine for an earlier Esskaye promotion.

Clarke, the dispatches said, was arrested Oct. 30, 1930, in Atlanta on a warrant sworn out by G. M. Harrington, editor of the Jesup Sentinel, who had invested $2,000 in Esskaye, Inc. then represented as a fraternal society.

Named in Five Indictments.

The ex-kleagle's wife, Martha Anna Clarke, was also arrested, the county grand jury returning five indictments against each of them. At a trial before City Judge D. M. Clarke at Jesup in the February term of 1931, the dispatches state, Clarke was found guilty on two counts in the indictment.

The court imposed a sentence of one year on the chain gang or a $1,000 fine on each count. Clarke, the dispatches said, appealed to both the Georgia Court of Appeals and the Georgia Supreme court, posting a $1,500 bond in each case. Mrs. Clarke then the secretary-treasurer of Esskaye, was not brought to trial.

Testimony in the case, according to the dispatches, was to the effect that Clarke sold Esskaye Pionee participation certificates to hundreds of persons in Georgia, claiming that Esskaye Inc., had assets of $20,000 in Atlanta and a $25,000 emlbem factory at Newman, Ga. During the trial, the dispatches state, it was proved that Esskaye had no assets.

KU KLUX CHIEF IN TROUBLE

CHICAGO, May 12 — (ANP)—When Edward Young Clarke, former imperial kleagle of the Ku Klux Klan sought to invade Chicago with his revived organization, now dubbed "Esskaye, Inc.," trouble camped on his doorstep.

Clarke rented an entire floor in one of the more pretentious office buildings, hired a lot of secretaries and advertised for salesmen to sell memberships in his new organization at any price from $5 up to $250. The Better Business Bureau got on his trail. Then a sheriff from Jessup County, Ga., sent word that unless he paid the $200 fine imposed on him in that state two years ago that he would send and get him in order that he might spend the next two years on the chain gang in Chicago.

Investigation brought out the fact that 11 of the employes whom Clarke hired had to put up from $100 up to secure their jobs, thus becoming shareholders not in the holding corporation but in an associate organization, which was not profit holding. The new organization welcomes Catholics and Jews but not Negroes.

Before he gets through it is the opinion of observers that Clarke will be pretty thoroughly discredited so far as Chicago is concerned.

MIGHTY COME TO JUDGMENT

Edward Young Clarke, former kleagle of the Ku Klux Klan and founder of Esskaye, Inc., a "back to prosperity" movement with $100 membership fees, was committed to the psychopathic hospital yesterday on a plea of the Esskaye executive board.

County Judge A. J. Van Keuren ordered the commitment on a certificate signed by Dr. Harold S. Hulbert, noted alienist, who examined Clarke and pronounced him a paranoiac. The ex-kleagle went quietly to the hospital. Lo! the mighty is fallen! The mills of the gods grind slowly, but they grind exceedingly fine.

KLAN LEADER HELD SANE

Alienists' Report Will Be Read at Clarke's Sanity Hearing.

CHICAGO, June 27.—(AP)—Edward Young Clarke, former high Ku Klux Klan official and more recently promoter of a new fraternal organization called Esskaye, Inc., has been pronounced sane by psychiatrists of the Cook County Psychopathic Hospital to which he had himself committed as a paranoiac.

Dr. V. G. Urse, one of thehospital's chief alienists, said that no trace could be found of mental ailment and such a report would be made to Judge Carles Allen at a sanity hearing for Clarke Thursday.

Daily Worker

Ku Klux Klan Leader Clark Proved Insane

New York

CHICAGO, Ill.—Edward Young Clarke, founder and former imperial kleagle of the Ku Klux Klan, and who recently organized a racket called Esskaye, Inc., a back to prosperity movement with $100 membership fees, was committed to the psychopathic hospital for examination as to his sanity. During the examination one of the doctors expressed the opinion that the proper place for the ex-kleagle was jail and not a hospital.

K. K. K. LEADER FALLEN

While the Ku Klux Klan was in its ascendancy a few years ago. Edward Young Clarke was its leader and was heartily acclaimed as such by the hooded knights. He did not only enjoy popularity of a kind, but also existed in opulence on an income enjoyed by but a few. The organization reached its apex of glory and gain and then began to diminish. Clarke abdicated his high place and has since attempted to form a similar organization at so much per person. He succeeded in securing some followers. Even in Chicago his Esskaye organization contained those of his like ideas. But the great Clarke met his Waterloo in Georgia, even in Jesup, where he and his wife were indicted and he convicted of cheating and swindling. Both of them are under bond, and that of his has been estreated with several other cases against him to be tried as well as that against his wife. This former Ku Klux leader has been under observance in Chicago, testing his sanity. It is a sad ending for the leader of an organization which has had the affluence of the Klan. But what more could be expected of the organization and the ones following it? Being based upon racial preindice and religious bigotry, it could not succeed with any of its leaders. Here and there may be found local bodies, but their days are numbered. A few years from now the organization will be a forgotten incident.

ORDER OF BLACK SHIRTS AIMS TO REPLACE KLAN

CHICAGO, Ill., Sept. 1—"The Order of Black Shirts," a new brotherhood, whose membership is limited to white persons male and over 18 years of age, has reached out to Chicago from Atlanta Ga., home of the Ku Klux Klan a antagonistic organization, that waxed and faded.

This new effort of American Fascisti is seeking to enlist organizers willing to "make $25 to $50 a day" signing up recruits. Among its tenets is undying opposition to the amalgamation of the white and colored races and communism. Of these isms the literature of the "Black Shirt," Order says:

The organization is pledged to fight to maintain white supremacy and to limit the ballot to persons who have paid poll taxes.

In general, the platform is more severe and less intolerant than that of the Klan. "There are lots of things about the Order that cannot be printed," according to W. B. Cobb, of Atlanta, national secretary, who is responsible for the literature that is to be circulated

Ku Klux Klan - 1932

NEW WHITE BAND K.K.K. PUTS BAN ON BED SHEETS

Anti-American

NEWARK, N.J. — The organization of the "White Band," an Invisible Empire on the order of the Ku Klux Klan is strongly gaining ground in Newark where it has been in the process of organization for the past year and a half, Arthur H. Bell of Bloomfield former high official of the Klan and now national head of the "White Band," revealed last week.

The new organization says it has no objection to admission of colored people, Catholics and Jews.

A concerted movement to establish the band has been going on in every county of New Jersey for the last year and a half, Bell declared. Up to the present time it has its greatest success in Middlesex, Monmouth and Mercer Counties, where the Klan used to have its largest membership. This would make the cities of New Brunswick, Trenton, and Asbury Park, headquarters of the movements, as they are the county seats of these counties.

No Bed Sheets

"No more parading around in bed sheets and burning of fiery crosses on lawns," declared Bell in stating that the secrecy and ritualism of the Klan would be absent in the new body.

Meetings are held weekly in every county.

Bell has placed the membership of the body at 325,000. Its essential principle is an opposition to all extreme liberalism and radicalism in the United States.

A number of instances of white crosses burned on neighboring lawns during the Christmas season gives some doubt as to the peaceful nature of the band.

Klu Klux Klan – 1932

Former Klan Leaders Seek To Organize Another Society

Courier -23-32
Pittsburgh, Pa.

NEW YORK, Jan. 21.—(ANP)—The three former high moguls of the infamous Ku Klux Klan were in New York last week seeking to fan into life a new organization which they have named the "Esskaye" and which is built upon the dying embers of the old organization of hatred and intolerance which swept through poor white America until it amassed 5,000,000 "knights" who worshipped in night shirts and hoods at secret conclaves and sought to govern this country through devious and dubious methods.

"Colonel" William J. Simmons, founder and Imperial Wizard E. Y. Clarke, the promoter and high powered salesman who became Imperial Kleagle, Dr. H. W. Evans, who succeeded to the mantle of Simmons and still serves as head of the nearly dead organization, were the three formerly powerful figures who establishing themselves in a downtown hotel dislosed their plans for a new and more potent under cover secret society.

Clarke when interviewed by reporters for daily newspapers, said that he had felt the pulse of the country and that things were now right for an organization which would lead the people out of economic depression and political incompetence. He told how they expected to enroll 15,000,000 members, roll up a treasury of $10,000,000 to $150,000,000, expose political corruption, swing national elections and gain power through local, state and national governments.

Membership in the new body has been made more elastic. Negroes will not be admitted, but Catholics and members of the Jewish faith will be eligible though they were banned from the Ku Klux. It is reported that a group of delegates from various sections of the country met and approved the plan at a secret meeting in Jacksonville, Fla., nearly a year ago. Since then extensive preparations have been made for development. Memberships are to cost from $10 to $50. Salesmen out of work are being solicited to serve as solicitors for the new body. The sale of memberships will be one of the cardinal activities of the present program. The aims of the body it was said include also the building of a "nation wide fellowship" and the providing of free employment bureaus for their members.

POST
BALTIMORE, MD.

FEB 2 1932

The Wizard Returns

AND SO AGAIN speaks the great one-time Imperial Wizard, now Generalissimo of the White Band:

"Americans, beware! Poison gas is sweeping over our country! Human reptiles breathing deadly fumes are trying to strangle the nation! Disguised as a political party—communism—these scorpions are tearing at the vitals of our government, our jobs, our homes, our very lives!"

This is the old flavor of the great William Joseph Simmons, founder of the Ku Klux Klan, he who wrote fiery assaults upon the Catholic, the Jew, the alien, the Negro, and clanged the famed cash register at $10 and more per head.

Now he is operating in New York, head of the White Band, claiming 300,000 members. There are traces of the same old Klan spirit in his new ritualism; the more cash you put in, the higher you go into the secrets.

In New York, too, is Edward Young Clarke, the promoter who put the fire under the boiler of Klandom and put feathers in the good old tar of racial and religious hatred. He is head of the patriotic, anti-graft Esskaye.

These stalwarts of the Klan wielded gigantic nation-wide forces of hate of man for man, setting neighbor against neighbor, father against son, mother against daughter, sending a fourth of the male populations of towns, cities and states into rural clearings on dark nights to put on pillow slips and sheets and make monkeys of themselves in droves for the glory of Allah, country and the Nordic race.

The curious thing about the new organizations—Simmons' White Band, Clarke's Esskaye—is that the enemies against whom the suspicion, hate and even fury of millions was incited during the Klan days are now welcomed to the new orders.

The joke is on the ardent Klansmen who stood with bated breath in bedsheets in rain and cold in some field, accepting as inspired truth the anti-papist, anti-Semitic, anti-alien diatribes from the pens of Clarke and Simmons, and went home to argue with their wives or partners, to win them over to the blessed, fire-eating cause.

RALEIGH, N. C.
NEWS OBSERVER

JAN 30 1932

THE WIZARD RETURNS.

New York World Telegram.

And so again speaks the great one-time Imperial Wizard, now Generalissimo of the White Band:—

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NEW YORK
HERALD-TRIBUNE

MAY 11 1932

School Voters Deadlock With Negro in the Lead

1,000 in All-Night Contest at Greenburgh After Klan Threats

Special to the Herald Tribune

WHITE PLAINS, N. Y., May 11 (Wednesday) — Residents of Union Free School District No. 8 of the Town of Greenburgh were still voting at 2 a. m. today to determine whether they should stay i session until daybreak or adjourn until next Tuesday the election of a school trustee. Although the Rev. L. W. Hughes, Negro pastor of the Union Baptist Church, of Manhattan Park, the Negro section of Greenburgh, was leading his two white opponents he still lacked a majority of the 951 votes cast, which is necessary for election.

Mr. Hughes had 397 votes, against 352 for Charles Balsir and 202 for Christian Carr. The election was held in the Hillside School in Greenburgh. Mr. Hughes was in favor of adjournment, but his supporters, all Negroes, overruled him and began a fight to continue the meeting until the election was completed. Despite the planting of a fiery cross on a hill overlooking Manhattan Park early yesterday, the Negroes were not intimidated and turned out in full force.

The meeting was stormy. Police Chief Philip J. McQuillan, of Greenburgh, and seven patrolmen stood guard against any disorder. At 10:30 o'clock last night an automobile fire in Elmsford called out forty of the white volunteer firemen, who extinguished the blaze quickly and raced back to the meeting. Only four arrived too late to vote. At 1 a. m. today the sirens of fire engines passing the school on the way to another fire on Virginia Road started a wild rush for the door, in which Mrs. Luke Mattimore fainted and had to be carried out.

member of the school board of trustees of the fashionable Westchester town.

Three ballots were required before the colored clergyman received a majority over his two white opponents, Christian Carrs and Charles Balsir. In the first election held ten days ago Hughes received 278 votes, Balsir 218 and Carrs 168.

In the second balloting last night Hughes received 397 votes, Balsir 352 and Carrs 202. Because the law allows no other alternative but to continue balloting until one candidate receives a majority, the third election began early today. Most of the voters were in bed by this time and Hughes received 250 votes, Balsir 151 and Carrs 34.

The fiery cross blazed last night on a hilltop overlooking the colored colony and drew vast crowds.

NEW YORK
GRAPHIC

MAY 11 1932

Klan Defied In Election of Negro Cleric

Unintimidated by the burning of a cross and receipt of threatening letters signed "K. K. K.," the Negro colony in the Manhattan Park district of Greenburgh today voted the Rev. L. W. Hughes, colored pastor of the Union Baptist Church, a

Defy Ku Klux Klan and Elect Minister to N. Y. School Board

GREENBURG, Westchester County, N. Y., May 20.—Defying the burning of a fiery cross and threats of the Ku Klux Klan, members of the Race in this Manhattan suburb, marched to the polls Wednesday and elected Rev. Lawrence W. Hughes, pastor of Union Baptist church, as a member of the board of education.

Rev. Hughes, the first member of the Race ever to hold such a position, defeated Charles Balsir and Christian A. Carrs, both of whom are white. The new board member will be installed Wednesday, June 1.

Elected on Third Ballot

Three ballots were required before the clergyman received a majority over his two opponents, Carrs and Balsir. In the first election, 10 days ago, Dr. Hughes received 278 votes, Balsir 218 and Carrs 168.

In the second balloting Tuesday night Hughes received 397 votes, Balsir 352 and Carrs 202. Because the law allows no other alternative but to continue balloting until one candidate receives a majority the third election began early Wednesday morning. Most of the voters were in bed by that time and Hughes received 250 votes, Balsir 151 and Carrs 34.

It was 4 o'clock in the morning when the crowd broke up. The Race delegation stayed loyally to their man. This in spite of the fact that the fiery cross burned bright behind the schoolhouse. It was unmatched courage, politicians and the white press said. Vast crowds were attracted by the spectacle.

Jimmy Kelly, president of the school board, said Thursday that "the people had spoken," and added that he is ready to welcome the Race pastor to the fold. The latter said that his chief interest is to serve the community in educating the young.

Wealthy School District

The school district includes 1,189 pupils attending one high school and two grade schools. Many of the children come from wealthy families living in the area.

The area covered by the school district includes Manhattan Park, a section inhabited chiefly by our people, and also many estates, some of them occupied by such notables as Dudley Field Malone (white), noted divorce attorney; Charles Stoneham, owner of the New York Giants baseball club, and others.

The fiery cross, burned on a hilltop above Manhattan Park, is believed to have been planted by Ku Klux Klan members. Supporters of Dr. Hughes are said to have received threatening notes.

Resurrected Klan Plans 'Red' Fight

Hooded Hoodlums Announce Renunciation of Old Religious and Racial Bigotry as 500 Attend Church Services

The hooded hoodlums of the Ku-Klux Klan are riding again in Queens county.

Within the last few weeks the bedsheet bigots have attended services, 500 strong, in the Grace United Christian Church in Long Island City, on the north side of Queens, and have flooded the south side communities with handbills stating "The Ku-Klux Klan Rides Again."

Although the klansmen profess that their new activities are directed against Communism rather than against non-Nordic races, all their recent activity has centered in sections which have large Negro populations and where, as it happens, no Communist meetings had been conducted.

Five hundred klansmen paid a "surprise visit" to the Grace United Christian Church, in the colored quarter of Long Island City. On the night of the visit Bishop Charles Nelson was performing the ordination of the Rev. Harry Garing, white, of Baldwin, L. I., at the Long Island City church.

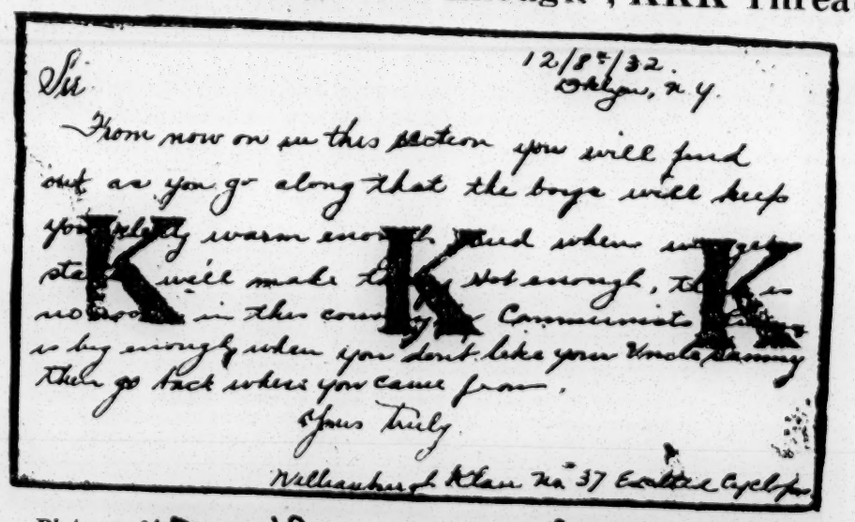
Bishop Nelson, white, said he had not been informed in advance of the kluxers' visit. A klansman, whose name was not announced, explained that the large delegation attended the service merely to show their appreciation of Bishop Nelson's creed of "loving all men, Catholics, Protestants, and Jews," and to refute the popular notion that the Klan has hostile feelings against any religious creed.

The klansman voiced the Klan's strong opposition to Communism. Klan literature, distributed outside the church, proclaimed that "The Klan Rides Again," and "Communism Will Not Be Tolerated."

Similar circulars were distributed last week throughout Jamaica, South Jamaica, Ozone Park, Richmond Hill South and nearby communities. Small boys handed out the broadsides picturing a klansman astride a rearing steed and holding the familiar flaming cross.

No one seems to know who authorized the flood of circulars. Outside of the general use of the name "Ku Klux Klan" there is nothing on the leaflets to reveal their source. The boys handing them out declared that a man had given to them and paid them 50 cents to pass them out on the streets.

We'll Make Things Hot Enough", KKK Threat


Sir
12/8/32.
Olean, N.Y.
From now on in this section you will find out as you go along that the boys will keep you plenty warm enough and when we get ready we will make things hot enough, the K K K
no room in the country for Communists
is big enough when you don't like your Uncle Sammy then go back where you came from.
Yours Truly
Williamsburgh Klan No 37 Exalted Cyclops

Picture of a Ku Klux Klan threat sent on an open postal card to the Workers' Center, 61 Graham Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y., and delivered by the U. S. Post Office though there is a law against sending threats through the mail. It seems to be all right when the Klan does it, though. The threat by the night-gown and pillow-slip crowd will make no change in the activities of the class-conscious workers.

Ku Klux Klan--1932

Pennsylvania

LAYS 'KLAN' THREAT TO VARE MACHINE

Printer Tells Hearing He Made 5,000 Cards, Backing Roosevelt, for a Jewish Area.

11-19-32

HOUSE CONTESTS PLANNED

New York, N.Y.

Counsel Says He Will Challenge Election of All Republicans From Philadelphia Vicinity.

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 18. — A charge that the Vare organization brought out the spectre of the Ku Klux Klan to frighten voters into casting their ballots for the Republican ticket last week was injected into the Congressional investigation of election frauds here today.

That 5,000 cards purporting to come from the Klan and urging support for Roosevelt and Garner were printed shortly before the election at the order of the Republican leader of a ward in which Negro and Jewish voters predominated was the testimony heard by the House Campaign Funds Committee, headed by Representative Heartsill Ragon of Arkansas.

This testimony, climaxing a day during which the use of juggernaut tactics was charged to the Vare machine in its desperate efforts to keep voters in line and return the "normal" pluralities for the Republican ticket, brought the committee to sudden attention and caused spectators to crowd forward in the hearing room.

When Benjamin Newman was called to the stand by S. Davis Wilson, counsel for the House committee and manager of the Roosevelt independent campaign committee in this State, he was obviously frightened and whispered that he was a printer.

"Did any one come to you and ask you to print a certain card?" Mr. Wilson asked, holding one in his hand.

Newman replied in the affirmative and identified the card, which read:

> We suggest your support for Roosevelt and Garner and other Roosevelt candidates.
>
> KLU KLUX KLAN.

Name Has Extra "L."

It was noted that the first word of the signature contained the superfluous letter "L." Whether this was a studied "mistake" was not brought out at the hearing.

Under questioning the printer said the order for the cards came from Alexander Lichtenstein, Republican organization leader of the Thirty-second Ward. He added that Lichtenstein met him at a hotel this morning and "told me to deny everything."

After forty witnesses had appeared during the day to attack election methods of the Vare organization, the committee adjourned its hearing.

But before it did so Mr. Wilson not only told the committee that he would prove that 100,000 votes were cast illegally for the Republican ticket in this city but that he would file contests against every Republican elected to Congress from Philadelphia, Delaware, Montgomery, Lehigh and Bucks Counties, all in Eastern Pennsylvania.

Charges weer made by T. Duncan Just, Pinchot leader of Montgomery County, that coercion was employed by manufacturers there to make their workers vote the Republican ticket and that "sixty Beaver College girls and other non-residents" voted illegally.

George McReynolds, Democratic leader of Bucks County, charged excessive use of money by former Senator Joseph R. Grundy to obtain the election of Henry W. Watson over Norton L. Lechtenwalner, his Democratic opponent for Congress.

Anna Millward, a Democratic watcher, declared that the voting machines in her division "jammed" every time a Democratic vote was cast. She added that the Republican committeeman, whenever this happened, met the voter outside the polling place with an oath and the charge that "you've double-crossed me."

Ruse of Fire Alarm Charged.

She said she had been offered $50 to leave the polling place, and that later Republican workers sought to get her away by telling her that her sister's home was on fire.

Illegal imposition of "political assessments" upon city employes, the holding of a "curbstone election" to choose a judge and clerk at one polling place, and many other allegedly fraudulent practices were charged by the parade of witnesses.

A sharp verbal exchange between Mr. Wilson and Representative John Nelson of Maine, Republican committee member, marked the hearing. Mr. Nelson made a remark about the counsel's bar standing and Mr. Wilson referred to the House member as a "lame duck Congressman."

The committee vetoed a motion by Mr. Wilson to have the Republican leaders of all forty-eight wards summoned for questioning regarding campaign contributions. He argued further that he wanted to subpoena General W. W. Atterbury, president of the Pennsylvania Railroad, and "at least ten utility heads" for the same purpose.

Chairman Ragon said he did not wish to call any more witnesses to Washington than was necessary, when the hearings are resumed after Thanksgiving, but Mr. Wilson said most of the persons he had in mind "could easily afford to make the trip."

Klu Klux Klan-1932.

Tennessee Night Riders Terrorize Negro Farmers

Humboldt, Tenn., Jan. 30.—(AP)—Bands of night riders are terrorizing Negro tenant farmers in the Fruitland and Medon communities, near here officials disclosed today. Sheriff Bradshaw said the riders had posted warnings on the homes of the tenant farmers that they "must leave the community in ten days." It is charged that white farmers, unable to pay rent, are trying to seize Negro farms.

Chicago Tribune 1-30-32

Farm Tenants Terrorized By Night Riders

Courier Pittsburgh Pa 2-13-32

HUMBOLDT, Tenn., Feb. 11—(By CNS)—Police officials declared here last week that bands of night raiders and marauders have been terrorizing Negro tenant farmers and their families in this vicinity. It was stated that the riders had posted warnings on the homes of Negro tenants that they "must leave the community within ten days."

"A certain class of white farmers, unable to pay rent, are trying to force the Negroes out in order to get their places." Sheriff Bradshaw of this city stated.

One white man has been arrested under an old night raiding statute, and other arrests are expected to follow.

NIGHT RIDING IN TENNESSEE WILL BE INVESTIGATED

Courier 4-23-32 Pittsburgh, Pa.

JACKSON, Tenn., Apr. 21—(By ANP)—The Grand Jury of Weakley county has been asked to investigate the numerous charges that Negro tenants have been terrorized in various sections of the county and their homes burned by night riders.

Several arrests have been made and in referring to the requested investigation the Jackson Sun white, declared:

"We hope the Weakley county grand jury will go to the bottom of the charges, and we believe that the attorney general will see that is done. We are also hoping that proper punishment will be meted out to those found guilty of the charges in the court of Judge Elkins."

Klu Klux Klan-1932

Virginia Ku Klux Use Negro's Song in Program For Washington Memorial

3-5-32

Washington, D. C.—One of the peculiar developments of the opening celebration of the George Washington Bicentennial Celeration on Monday, February 22, was the burning, at 12.01 a. m., of a fiery cross by the Ballston Ku Klux Klan of Ballston, Va., with 500 members and a crowd of 1,000 looking on. A 70-foot cross was lighted by Howard E. Bitting, grand tipan, but a heavy downpour of rain caused the masked knights to flee to the shelter of their hall.

Here, in the closing of their program, they sang several songs, one of which was "Carry me back to Old Virginia," but it is supposed that the "cross burners" did not even suspect, to say nothing of knowing, that this song was written by "Jim Bland, the Minstrel," a Negro orn in the District of Columbia, and who was one of the leading troupers some thirty years ago, along with Billy Kersands, Tom McIntosh and Sam Lucas.

Another of Bland's songs was "The Christmas Dinner."

That strange things happen is seen in the linking of the Father of the Country with the Negro minstrel Bland, by the Virginia ku. kluxers.

Klu Klux Klan – 1932

West Virginia

ROBED, HOODED MEN HOLD PUBLIC BEATING

Courier

SHENANDOAH JUNCTION, W. Va., Mar. 24—By the light of a flaming cross, a dozen white robed and hooded men, believed to be members of the Ku Klux Klan, publicly whipped Lloyd Barron, 36, (white) on the main street. 3-26-32

The thrashing is said to have been administered Barron who was badly bruised in retribution of having beaten his wife. After the beating he was taken home by the mob.

Pete Bernard